## Message Text

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**ACTION FBO-06** 

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 A-01 /017 W

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R 100921Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2341

**UNCLAS DAMASCUS 0087** 

DEPARTMENT FOR FBO

EO 11652: N/A TAGS: ABLD, Y

SUBJECT: RESIDENCE WATER SUPPLY

REF: A. DAMASCUS 2075; B. STATE 2188

- 1. IN REFTEL A EMBASSY REQUESTED FUNDS TO REPAIR THE PIPE LINE WHICH CHANNELED RIVER WATER TO THE RESIDENCE FOR IRRIGATING THE GROUNDS. REFTEL B APPROVED FUNDS FOR THE PROJECT.
- 2. DESPITE NUMEROUS REQUESTS THE MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES STILL HAVE NOT CARRIED OUT THE WORK. DURING THE INTERIM IT HAS BEEN NOTED THAT DURING DRY WINTERS, SUCH AS THE ONE WE ARE NOW EXPERIENCING, THE RIVER IS TOO LOW TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT WATER FOR OUR NEEDS EVEN IF THE PIPE LINE WERE FULLY OPERABLE.
- 3. THE EMBASSY FIRMLY BELIEVES THAT THE BEST ANSWER TO OUR

PROBLEM, BOTH SHORT AND LONG RANGE, WOULD BE TO DIG A DEEP WELL ON THE PROPERTY, SIMILAR TO THAT LOCATED ON THE RESIDENCE PROPERTY IN ALEPPO. WE HAVE BEEN ASSURED BY GEOLOGISTS FROM THE HYDRAULIC RESOURCES DIVISION OF THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS THAT AN UNLIMITED SUPPLY OF WATER LIES 60 TO 80 METERS BENEATH OUR PROPERTY. THEY STATE, IN FACT, THAT A VIRTUAL LAKE OF WATER LIES UNDER ALL OF DAMASCUS.

3. THE GEOLOGISTS ESTIMATE THE COST FOR A WELL 80 METERS DEEP, INCLUDING SUBMERSIBLE PUMP, WOULD BE APPROXIMATELY UNCLASSIFIED

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\$6000. THE FINAL COST WOULD BE DETERMINED BY THE DEPTH

OF THE WELL. IF FOR EXAMPLE WATER IS AVAILABLE AT 60 METERS THE COST WOULD BE MEASURABLE LESS.

4. BESIDES PROVIDING WATER FOR THE GARDEN, WHICH URGENTLY NEEDS IRRIGATING, THE WELL WOULD PROVIDE AN EMERGENCY SOURCE OF WATER FOR THE RESIDENCE AND FOR OTHER EMBASSY HOUSEHOLDS IN THE EVENT OF DAMAGE TO THE CENTRAL SYSTEM. FINALLY, USE OF THE DEEP WELL WILL PROVIDE PURER WATER THAN THAT AVAILABLE FROM THE OPEN TRENCH RUNNING THROUGH DAMASCUS WHICH HAS BEEN PIPED INTO RESIDENCE IN PAST.

5. ACTION REQUESTED. TELEGRAPHIC APPROVAL OF DIGGING DEEP WELL ON RESIDENCE GROUNDS AND ALLOTMENT OF \$6,000 FOR THIS PURPOSE. TO PREVENT FURTHER LOSS OF VALUABLE TREES AND SHRIBBERY TRUST THIS CAN BE APPROVED SOONEST. MURPHY

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## Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

Concepts: n/a Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 10 JAN 1975 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: n/a

Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:

Disposition Reason: Disposition Remarks:

Document Number: 1975DAMASC00087 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Film Number: D750010-0365 From: DAMASCUS Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750163/aaaacdau.tel Line Count: 77

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ACTION FBO Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 DAMASCUS 2075, 75 STATE 2188
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 31 MAR 2003

**Review Event:** 

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 MAR 2003 by RicharJA>; APPROVED <13 FEB 2004 by CollinP0>

**Review Markings:** 

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JÚL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:** Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: RESIDENCE WATER SUPPLY

TAGS: ABLD, SY To: STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006